

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-11 and 14-20 have been amended. Claims 1-2, 4-12 and 14-20 are pending in this application.

In reply to the Examiner objections to claims 1-20, claims 1-20 have been amended to clarify that a set recording period may be changed, such as by a controller of a program recording apparatus that receives and records a desired program, and that the claimed inventive method and apparatus do not change the actual broadcast time period of a desired program. Accordingly, claims 1-20 recite a set broadcast time period to record, and a new time period to record, where the set broadcast time period to record may be changed to the new time period to record. In view of the amendments to claims 1-20, it is respectfully submitted that the objections to claims 1-20 have been overcome and should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-2, 4-12 and 14-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,951,031 B2 (Hatano) in view of U.S. Publication No. 2003/0152360 A1 (Mukai et al.).

Independent claim 1, as amended, now recites in part the following:

a controller operable to change the set broadcast time period to record to a new time period to record when the predetermined word is included in the character string, wherein the new time period to record has a termination point later than a termination point of the set broadcast time period to record and the termination point of the new time period to record is determined based on the value of the discriminated number sequence;

the controller being operable to time-extend the termination point of the set broadcast time period to record in response to the value of the discriminated number sequence, in a range not overlapping another set broadcast time period to record, wherein the controller does not change the set

broadcast time period to record when the termination point of the new time period to record is later than a starting point of the another set broadcast time period to record.

(emphasis added; see specification, for example, at paragraphs [0065] and [0068] and FIG. 4). Thus, according to the claimed invention, when "another set broadcast time period to record," which for example is for another program that is not the "desired program," exists in addition to a "set broadcast time period to record" which is for the desired program, the controller does not change the set broadcast time period to record to the new time period to record "when the termination point of the new time period to record is later than a starting point of the another set broadcast time period to record." (Emphasis added.) Consequently, according to the claimed invention, "a decided reservation setting is made to have priority." (See paragraph [0068]).

The Examiner admitted that Hatano does not disclose a controller being operable to time-extend a "termination point of the set broadcast period to record . . . in a range not overlapping another set broadcast period to record," as required by claim 1. In addition, the applied portions of Hatano at Col. 16, ln. 40-50, appear to disclose that "information about the program," such as title and broadcast time, recorded at a recording apparatus "at a time of selecting the program to record" is not changed, if there is a change, for example, of the actual broadcast time, in the period "between the setting of the programming for recording [on the recording apparatus]" and the previously "set time" to record. (emphasis added). In other words, in Hatano, "the change [in the actual broadcast time] takes no effect on the [previous] recording of the information about the program," which may be used for searching afterward to located the recorded program. (emphasis

added) The applied portions of Hatano, however, do not appear to disclose that a controller, which is operable to change a set broadcast time period to record by time-extending a termination point of the set broadcast time period to record to a later termination point of a new time period to record, "does not change the set broadcast time period to record when the termination point of the new time period to record is later than a starting point of the another set broadcast time period to record," as required by claim 1. (emphasis added).

Mukai does not cure the above-identified deficiencies of Hatano with respect to the requirements of claim 1, as described above. Although the applied portions of Mukai (paragraph [0076] and FIG. 10) appear to disclose continuing to record after a termination point of a set period to record, until a scene change is detected, the applied portions of Mukai do not appear to disclose that a set broadcast time period to record is not changed, so as to time-extend its termination point to the later termination point of a new time period to record, "when the termination point of the new time period to record is later than a starting point of the another set broadcast time period to record," as required by claim 1. (emphasis added).

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 1 is distinguishable from the applied combination of Hatano and Mukai.

For reasons similar to those previously described with regard to claim 1, it is also respectfully submitted that amended independent claim 11 is also distinguishable from the applied combination of Hatano and Mukai.

Claims 2, 4-10, 12, and 14-20 are dependent from one of independent claims 1 and 11. Accordingly, it is also respectfully

submitted that dependent claims 2, 4-10, 12, and 14-20 are distinguishable from the applied combination of Hatano and Mukai for at least the reasons previously described.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he/she telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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